FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 MAY 1984

Gulf Shipping Crisis

GCC foreign ministers began an emergency meeting in Riyadh 17 May to discuss developments in the Gulf, SPA announced. Earlier, Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan stressed that GCC officials are working on a military strategy for the defense of their countries, Kuwait radio reported. A Saudi Information Ministry source cited by SPA reacted to the "very strange and regrettable" attack on a Saudi tanker near Ra's Tannurah by emphasizing that the Kingdom denounces the repeated aerial assaults on Gulf tankers and is determined to end "such infringements of international law" in cooperation with the other GCC states. A Saudi ports official disclosed that the attack took place 60 miles northeast of Ra's Tannurah, causing a fire in the ship's fuel tanks which was extinguished with assistance from Saudi authorities, according to the agency.

In further reaction to recent attacks on Kuwaiti shipping, the director of legal administration at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry affirmed that Kuwait may seek UN assistance to protect its rights by invoking Article 34 of the UN Charter, which gives the Security Council the right to intervene in a grave situation, KUNA reported.

The attacks on tankers have brought shipping in the northern Gulf to a virtual standstill, according to the *GULF DAILY NEWS*, and some 22 supertankers are currently waiting outside the Strait of Hormuz because their owners are unwilling to order their crews into the war zone. The paper said Iran's main oil terminal at Khark Island has been "virtually sealed off" by the major shipowners, and British maritime circles cited by INA likewise revealed that companies have recently ceased chartering tankers for Khark because of the Iraqi air raids and high insurance premiums. The chairman of the Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Company affirmed that Kuwaiti shipping will continue normal operations in the Gulf despite the recent attacks on Kuwaiti tankers, AFP reported.

A Tehran radio commentary held Iraq responsible for the attacks on the tankers, charging that the increase in such attacks reflects the "depth and expansion of military, security, and intelligence cooperation between Iraq and the United States" because, in view of the distance separating Iraq from the center of the Gulf, "it cannot carry out such dangerous moves without the help of the United States."

In another development, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry denounced the "tendentious" contents of a British Foreign Ministry statement on the attacks on shipping in the Gulf, asserting that the statement ignored the Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi vessels and intentionally disregarded the "unquestionable fact" that Iraq has always called for peace, security, and free navigation in the Gulf, INA noted. The British statement, reported by London PRESS ASSOCIATION, blamed both Iraq and Iran for the disruption of tanker traffic and stressed that freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz must be respected. Meanwhile, France appealed to "all parties concerned" for an end to hostilities in the Gulf while Japan completed preparations to receive an Arab delegation including the Iraqi foreign minister as part of a possible attempt to mediate in the conflict, according to AFP and KUNA.

Libya-Tunisia Relations

Tunisia withdrew its commissioner general in Libya, the highest ranking diplomat there, to protest the abduction of three Tunisian National Guard members by Libyan authorities and the "escalation of attacks" on Tunisia by the "official Libyan media," Tunis radio disclosed. The Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement carried by JANA expressing "extreme regret" over the decision, affirming that the action will not serve the Tunisian people.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, reported that the Cabinet studied the government policy statement presented by the drafting committee and agreed on its contents. The statement will be put in its "final form," and the Cabinet will "deal with it" on 19 May.

Reporting on incidents in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, Jerusalem radio said that two inhabitants were wounded when they resisted IDF forces attempting to search their houses. The soldiers subsequently discovered a "considerable" quantity of weapons, the radio claimed. AFP, citing witnesses at the camp, reported that 15 people were injured when IDF forces dynamited houses during a 5-hour operation in which 110 people were detained.

PLO Affairs

Syria has invited the Fatah Central Committee to send a delegation to Damascus, according to a "Palestinian source" cited by WAKH. The source indicated that the Syrian initiative was a result of Algerian-Yemeni mediation. In a separate development, participants in the Algiers intra-Palestinian meeting issued a statement denouncing Morocco for hosting a "Zionist" delegation at the recent Jewish congress in Rabat, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement described the Moroccan action as a "painful blow" to the Palestinian people and called for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to adopt measures to check this "serious development."

Israel

The first five candidates in the Labor Party's list for the Knesset elections, as published by *THE JERUSALEM POST*, are Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Navon, Yitzhaq Rabin, Hayim Bar-Lev, and Abba Eban.

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Karmal Thanks Saddam Husayn for Anniversary Note

GF161332 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 May 84

[Cable from Babrak Karmal, president of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn — date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: I am pleased to send you on behalf of the DRA people and on my behalf sincere regards to Your Excellency and through you to the friendly Iraqi people for the warm congratulations which you sent to us on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the April Revolution. I would like to seize this opportunity to wish you happiness and more progress and prosperity for the friendly Iraqi people.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, president of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council

Visit by Turkey's Ozal to Pakistan Condemned

LD161710 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Dear listeners, visits by representatives of imperialism, headed by the world-devouring U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism, to Pakistan have now become a normal routine. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has also made a provocative visit to Islamabad. He then visited the camps of Afghan counterrevolutionaries in Peshawar. A BAKHTAR commentator writes about this:

The prime minister of Turkey, who is one of the traitorous servants of imperialism, similar to the Thatchers, Zhao Ziyangs, and Arabian princes, recited a few provocative and interventionist words to the counterrevolutionary groups in Peshawar and offered a $100,000 gift from his government toward expanding the dimensions of the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

In his statement, the prime minister of Turkey said that the number of Afghans who have gathered in Pakistan, the so-called refugees, deserve mercy. The prime minister of Turkey does not want to accept the fact that there exists no Afgan refugees issue deserving the mercy of world-devouring imperialism. There are, in fact, no Afghan refugees on Pakistani territory. What exists in certain camps are traitors and treacherous counterrevolutionaries, who have become tools for the continuation of the undeclared war against the DRA by imperialism, reaction, and Chinese hegemonism. The only other group of Afghans in Pakistan consists of nomads who, for years, travelled between these regions. Now the Pakistani militarist regime prevents them from returning to Afghanistan.

The prime minister of Turkey, who shed crocodile tears for [word indistinct] and a group of counterrevolutionaries, has forgotten the oppression and suffocation his own military dictatorship has imposed on the people of Turkey. All the basic freedoms and rights in Turkey have been trampled by the militarists and generals, and the people of that country live in the chains of political captivity. It is the regime in Turkey that has not only usurped the basic sociopolitical rights of its people, but has encroached upon Cyprus and is keeping its military forces there despite the UN Security Council resolutions.

Turkey is one of the loyal allies of U.S. imperialism in [37-second break in transmission], expressed his support for the suffocating and oppressive policy of Turkey in Cyprus. The prime minister of Turkey [word indistinct] has no intention of assisting the so-called refugees. This aid has been given to the leaders of the counterrevolutionary bands so that they can further utilize it in fanning the interference of world-devouring imperialism, headed by the U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism.

Other leaders of the imperialist countries and the Chinese hegemonists also have paid visits to these military training camps and have given large amounts of money to the counterrevolutionaries. Despite all this, however, this aid cannot block the antiimperialist and antifeudalist national democratic revolution of Afghanistan, because behind this revolution are millions of Afghans who are ready to sacrifice their livelihood and lives for the revolution and its gains. The prime minister of Turkey does not understand that millions of the toiling people of Afghanistan are supporting enthusiastically their revolutionary and beloved state, as are all the international and national liberation movements and progressive forces of the international working class of the socialist countries, headed by the great and powerful Soviet Union. Therefore, this assistant of imperialism bosses and their servants -- the Afghanistan counterrevolutionaries -- does not, and will not present the smallest threat to the process of the revolutionary development of our people.

Traffic Through Panjsher Valley Returns to Normal

LD161847 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Travel throughout the beautiful Panjsher valley by the toiling people of Panjsher has been resumed, and the people are resuming their normal life thanks to the heroic Armed Forces of the country.

An Afghan television reporter who traveled from Kabul to the Panjsher District by car reports from the beautiful valley of Panjsher that the toiling people of Panjsher travel through the valley in a normal manner and are resuming their normal lives. The television reporter reports that complete tranquillity prevails in the beautiful Panjsher valley and revolutionary sovereignty has been maintained throughout the valleys. As a result of the shattering blows and operations of the country's courageous Armed Forces, the criminal band of Ahmad Shah Masud, the servant of reaction and imperialism, has been shattered, and the people of Panjsher have been freed from its evil forever.

Counterrevolutionaries in Parvan Province Crushed

LD161653 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Recently seven of our deceived compatriots who were cooperating with one of the counterrevolutionary bands in

Bamian Province, realizing the righteousness of revolution and utilizing the amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council's Presidium, headed by Mohammad Hosayn, along with their weapons went over to the security forces, and repenting their past actions promised to rise in defense of the revolution, homeland, and the people and to fight to the end of their lives against the criminal rebel bands who disrupt the life of our people.

Counterrevolutionary elements, these enemies of the people's tranquillity, are being crushed every day under the shattering blows of the heroic Armed Forces of the country and villages and districts of the country are being cleansed of their existence.

Quoting a responsible source of the security forces in Parvan Province, a BAKHTAR information agency correspondent reports that recently as a result of a successful operation which was carried out in Parvan Province a number of rebels were crushed, and 27 assorted weapons along with 65,000 rounds of ammunition for DShK, 10,900 antitank mines, a food storage depot, and an equipment store were seized from these criminals, and 2 DShK's, 5 rounds of rocket missiles, 34 mortar shells, 25 assorted mines, and 15 hand grenades were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of a successful operation recently which was mounted in the villages of Esmai'il Khan Tani subdistrict and Nader Shah Kot, seven rebels belonging to the so-called Gulbuddin faction, including their ringleaders, were crushed and a number of assorted weapons were seized from them. In addition, a food store and an equipment depot of the enemy were destroyed.

Tehran: Kabul Creating KGB-Aided Network

GF161157 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] In an attack on Soviet troops and Babrak Karmal regime's forces in Herat Province, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have killed 262 members of the anti-Islamic enemy and wounded 150 others.

Meanwhile, incoming reports say that the Kabul regime is endeavoring to set up a new espionage network in Afghanistan with the aid of the KGB. Through the mercenaries to be employed in the ranks of this network, the Kabul regime intends to combat the Muslim revolutionaries.

Mujahidin Victories in Herat Province Portrayed

GF151835 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 15 May 84

[Summary] In the (Golzar) District of Herat Province, our mujahidin brothers in a brave operation against the Soviet-Karmal troops killed 18 enemy soldiers. In this operation the mujahidin also captured 19 small arms of several varieties. In another attack our mujahidin brothers destroyed one enemy tank in the (Babaji) area of Herat and killed 50 enemy soldiers.

In another attack on a military post in (Golaram) District of Herat, the mujahidin killed 60 enemy and captured 8 others.

In the face of growing attacks by mujahidin, the commanders of the Soviet-Karmal troops have increased their security measures. Reports received indicate that one Soviet commander in the region of (Sad-e Kajaki) has warned his superiors that if he does not get food and material support immediately, he will not be able to resist the mujahidin attacks.

A group of 60 mercenaries of the Khalq and Parcham Parties who had intended to infiltrate into the mujahidin organization were ambushed at a village in Qandahar Province by our mujahidin brothers and were captured. Later they were questioned by the mujahidin. The members of this group who later (?accused each other) said them had intended to engage in subversion in a neighboring country. These mercenaries of the Khalq and Parcham Parties finally confessed that similar subversive groups of Khalq and Parcham personnel have been sent by the Marxist Karmal regime to infiltrate the Afghan refugees in Iran.

Other Victories Depicted

GF141916 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] As a result of ambushes and attacks by our mujahidin brothers on the (Delaram) highway in Farah Province, two (?vehicles) of the Soviet occupationist enemy were destroyed and their occupants killed or wounded.

Our brother mujahidin were successful in inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the infidel usurpist enemy and the puppet Babrak Karmal forces in heroic battles in Herat Province. In these battles which lasted for 4 days in the region of (Baraman), (Khajeh Qal'eh), (Howz Karbas), (Divancheh), and some other areas, more than (?30) armored tanks and transport vehicles of the aggressors were destroyed and more than 100 of the Soviet aggressor forces were killed. In these operations, more than 160 of the deceived persons of the mercenary Babrak Karmal regime connected with the operatic [word indistinct] of Kabul and [words indistinct] of Farah and of (?unit) number 17 of Herat were injured. A large quantity of various kinds of weapons fell into the hands of our brother mujahidin as booty.

Tamils Held for Questioning on Kidnapping Freed
BK161555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 16 (AFP) — India today released a group of Sri Lankan Tamil separatists it had detained in connection with a kidnapping incident the day after Colombo demanded their extradition, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Indian police had detained 25 [as received] members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a Tamil separatist group, after it claimed reponsibility for the kidnapping Thursday of an American couple in northern Sri Lanka. All 15 members of the Front, including their chief propagandist K. Eelamani, were set free this morning, PTI said in a dispatch from Madras, capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where (?seven) separatist groups are based. Their release was ordered after the couple, Stanley Allen, 36, and his wife Mary, 29, were freed unharmed in a church in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna District last night.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali late yesterday called on the Tamil Nadu authorities to hand over separatists in the state, whom he said had "no doubt" organised the Allens' abduction. "It was the terrorists in Tamil Nadu who organised the kidnapping of the Allens and then ordered their release," he told a press conference in Colombo.

The Indian Government has yet to officially react to the demand. However, sources close to the government said that New Delhi was likely either to reject the demand or just ignore it.

"However, the Indians are possibly waiting for an official communication from Colombo demanding the handing over of the Tamil militants here," one source said. "But the very fact that all the 25 [as received] members of the front, who were taken into custody after the kidnapping, were released indicates what the Indian reaction will be," the source said.

There are seven major organizations with varying strength in arms and manpower based in the southern Indian states and working for the creation of a separate Tamil Eelam or nation in Sri Lanka, a recent report in *INDIA TODAY* magazine said. The Sri Lankan Tamils, who originally derived from Tamil (?Nadu), allege discrimination a the hands of Sri Lanka's Sinhala majority.

Arson Reported in Punjab; Jullundur Curfew Eased
BK161559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, some miscreants set on fire the employment exchange in Batala in Gurdaspur District last night. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today the miscreants were armed and carried kerosene cans with them. Records of the employment exchange were destroyed in the fire.

With further improvement in the situation in Jullundur, the day curfew has been lifted from 0600 tomorrow. However, it will be reimposed from 1900 tomorrow to 0600 on Friday. Today, curfew was relaxed for 4 hours during the day. Life during the relaxation period remained peaceful, and no untoward incident has been reported so far.

Debate of Defense, Social Priorities Called for
BK161648 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 May 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Conflict of Priorities"]

[Text] The visit to India of Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Britain's Minister of State for Defence Supplies, suggests that India is still out shopping for arms. No doubt this is a continuous process, but the range of discussions implies that some large orders are on the anvil, whoever be the final suppliers. This would be in addition to the very substantial orders being negotiated with the Russians which were reaffirmed during the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov's recent visit to Delhi. A general memorandum of understanding is likely to be signed with the UK for purchase of defence equipment and its manufacture in the country and for transfer of technology.

The individual items under negotiation with the UK (and certain other European suppliers) include 155-mm towed and self-propelled guns, combat engineering tractors, 11 more Sea Harriers, a power plant for the Vijayanta-proposed main battle tank, helicopters, a light combat aircraft for the 1990s, and advanced avionics for the Air Force. The value of these contracts could be very considerable. The manufacture of critical items of defence equipment within the country can be understood up to a point in terms of the drive to achieve self-reliance. The manufacture of submarines at Mazagon Docks with West German collaboration fits into this context. But even the British seem a bit surprised that India should be looking for a 1500 h.p. engine for its proposed main battle tank when Western armour, including equipment still on the drawing board, is powered by no more than 1000-1200 h.p. engines.

At a time when the Seventh Plan is being circumscribed by resource constraints and the emphasis is on maintenance investments, to ensure fuller utilisation of existing capacity, and certain core and infrastructural items in the industrial sector, a large defense-purchase-cum-production push, as contemplated, is going to make a heavy draft on available resources. There is a clear conflict of priorities. Unless development, including human development and employment, forges ahead more rapidly, the political system is going to come under increasing strain which cannot leave the economy untouched. The relationship between defence, development and political stability needs to be debated far more openly and urgently and hard questions need to be asked about foreign policy options and perspectives in the context of which defence planning is undertaken. As of now, these questions have not been asked and certainly have not been answered, even internally within the Government. This must be done soon, else the country could be in serious trouble.

Ziaul Haq Continues Meetings With George Bush

Talks 'Wide-ranging'

BK161637 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] During wide-ranging talks between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and U.S. Vice President George Bush in Murree today, the Afghanistan situation, the Iran-Iraq war, the present state of East-West relations, and the North-South dialogue particularly came up for discussion. The leaders also exchanged views at last night's private dinner and today's banquet on various international, regional, and bilateral matters. Today's formal talks lasted for 2 and 1/2 hours and were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere.

Briefing newsmen this afternoon in Rawalpindi, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that during the in-depth discussion on the Afghanistan situation, the U.S. vice president expressed U.S. support for the diplomatic process and Pakistan's efforts in connection with finding a political solution to this issue based on the withdrawal of foreign troops, restoration of Afghanistan's independent and nonaligned status, respect for the Afghan people's right to [word indistinct], and the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes in honor and dignity. Mr George Bush also commended Pakistan for its role in providing shelter and other facilities to the Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds. The foreign minister said that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq thanked the United States for the support expressed for the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue and for the generous U.S. assistance extended to the Afghan refugees bilaterally as well as through international agencies.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq apprised the U.S. vice president of the efforts Pakistan is making to establish tension-free and good neighborly relations with all countries of South Asia, especially India. These efforts include Pakistan's proposal of a no-war pact with India and talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries later this month. The U.S. vice president appreciated these efforts and described them as positive and constructive for peace and stability in this region.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told newsmen that West Asia and political issues of this region also came up for in-depth discussion. Concern was expressed over the Iran-Iraq war, and Pakistan's individual and collective efforts to end this war were commended. Both sides stressed the need to protect Lebanon's independence, territorial integrity, and unity. On the Middle East, Mr Bush explained the various efforts being made to find a comprehensive and just solution to this issue. The Pakistani president emphasized that the fundamental solution to the issue is the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and to an independent state.

On bilateral relations, both sides expressed satisfaction at the strong and enduring relations existing between the two countries, which are based on mutual trust and confidence. Mr Bush reiterated that the United States attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan. Mr Bush handed over a letter from President Reagan to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq expressing feelings of deep friendship and good wishes. President Reagan expressed happiness at the growing relations between the United States and Pakistan.

During the talks, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq reiterated that Pakistan's atomic program is for peaceful purposes and that there is an urgent need for such a program to meet growing energy requirements. The U.S. vice president appreciated Pakistan's efforts to control narcotics which is a matter of as much concern to the United States as to Pakistan.

Answering a question, the foreign minister said that during the talks the president explained the program announced on 12 August last year and measures now being taken for the establishment of a representative government in Pakistan by the fixed deadline of March 1985. Mr Bush briefed the Pakistani president on President Reagan's recent visit to China and on his own visit to five countries, including India.

Earlier, a spokesman of the U.S. delegation told newsmen in Islamabad that during the 2-and-1/2-hour talks between Mr George Bush and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in-depth discussions took place on the geographical and political situation and regional and bilateral matters. The spokesman said both leaders have met many times in the past, and their close personal relationship was amply witnessed during the talks. The talks were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere. Referring to the warm welcome accorded the U.S. vice president on his way to Murree this morning, the spokesman said that Mr Bush was deeply impressed by his welcome from such a large number of people.

Banquet Speeches

BK170400 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The United States and Pakistan have stressed the need for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem that would enable millions of Afghan refugees to return to their homes with dignity and honor and determine the future of their country free from any outside intervention. The American vice president, Mr George Bush, in his speech at a banquet given in his honor by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the presidency in Islamabad last night said that the United States recognizes the fact that Pakistan has been tirelessly working for such a peaceful and negotiated settlement. He said Pakistan's principled stand on the Afghanistan issue has not been without cost, as this problem has caused sufferings and hardships to millions of people on both sides of the border. Innocent Pakistanis have lost their lives and property in the course of brutal air raids by foreign aircraft on Pakistani soil.

Referring to his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the talks members of his delegation had with the senior Pakistani officials, Mr George Bush said the talks were realistic and were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. He said the talks have confirmed that the two countries have established an enduring friendship which is dedicated to the promotion of peace and stability in the world. He said Pakistan-U.S. relations are good, strong, and lasting.

Referring to President Ziaul Haq's visit to the United States, Mr George Bush said it has greatly helped in the establishment of enduring friendship between the two countries. On the U.S.-Pakistan Joint Commission, he said this has contributed toward increasing contacts between the two peoples as well as in checking the scourge of narcotics through joint efforts.

The American vice president paid great tribute to economic development made by Pakistan and the steps the government is taking to hold elections and to establish more representative political institutions. Mr George Bush referred to Pakistan's constructive role on issues affecting the Middle East, Nonaligned Movement, and the Third World.

Earlier, the president in his speech said that Pakistan is deeply concerned with the political, military, and human aspects of the Afghanistan problem, and it desires a peaceful settlement of the issue. He referred to the progress made in this regard through efforts of the UN secretary general's personal representative and prayed for the success of his efforts so that this human tragedy is brought to an end.

The president referred to his talks with the American vice president on Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Middle East situation, and said the talks have further promoted understanding between the two countries on major issues. He expressed his confidence that Mr George Bush's visit will prove a milestone in the way of strengthening friendship and promoting understanding between the two countries. The president said incidents of far-reaching effects in our region in recent years have provided a new form and unique significance to Pakistan-U.S. relations. Mr Bush's visit, he said, is not only timely but also important, as it has once again demonstrated mutual confidence and friendly relations between the two countries.

The president stressed the need for seeking solutions to serious problems, like the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East. He also referred to Pakistan's efforts to create a positive trend which could help in establishing peace and stability in this region. He said we are striving to promote friendly relations with all our neighbors, including India, and also making determined efforts to increase regional cooperation among countries of South Asia.

Visit to Peshawar

BK170643 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The American vice president, Mr George Bush, was accorded a very enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Peshawar this morning. He was accompanied by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. He was received at the airport by the governor of the North-West Frontier Province, Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, provincial ministers, and federal and provincial councillors. Two children dressed in traditional attire presented bouquets to Mr and Mrs Bush. The school students showered flower petals on the distinguished guests as they passed.

Later, Mr Bush was briefed about the measures the government of Pakistan is taking to look after and provide assistance to Afghan refugees with the help of the United Nations and international voluntary organizations.

Earlier, Mr George Bush was given very warm send-off this morning when he left Islamabad for Peshawar. A 19-gun salute boomed in the air to bid him farewell. Contingents of three Armed Forces presented a guard of honor, and the national anthems of the two countries were played. Two children presented bouquets to Mr and Mrs George Bush. Those present at the airport to see the distinguished guests off included, among others, joint chiefs of staff committee chairman, General Rahimuddin Khan; chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim; federal ministers; councillors; members of diplomatic missions; and senior officials.

A large number of people lining both sides of the road from the state guest palace to the airport repeatedly clapped with happiness after seeing the American vice president. Folk dances were presented at various places all along the way.

Soviet Offensive in Panjsher Valley Decried

GF121317 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 30 Apr 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Soviet Union's Latest Aggression"]

[Excerpts] Nearly 4 years have elapsed since the Soviet troops marched into Afghanistan. This is a long time. Even the first world war ended in a cease-fire in 1918 after it was started 4 years earlier in 1914. But there are no signs of the war ending in Afghanistan. In fact, the Soviet Union is intensifying its aggression and in its latest offensive in Panjsher Valley and Konarha, paratroopers equipped with the latest weapons were used for the first time.

Today, the Afghan mujahidin are in the throes of a critical phase in their history. Their only armor is faith, sincerity, and a burning desire for freedom. They do not possess modern weapons, tanks, or bombers, and yet they are fighting one of the biggest powers in the world. If the Soviet Union is fighting for expansion, then the Afghans are fighting for their freedom. They have sacrificed thousands for this cause. Thousands of families have been affected and many homes destroyed. Hundreds of thousands have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries. Pakistan is assisting them as much as possible as are other Islamic countries; but Pakistan can only provide moral support, and not arms.

The United States and its allies would prefer it if the Soviet Union remained embroiled in Afghanistan and that will continue until the last Afghan is wiped out. Pakistan and Iran can only make efforts to ensure that Soviet expansionist aggression does not assume a form which affects them. The nonaligned countries of the Islamic world and the Western allies will continue to raise a hue and cry for the restoration of its freedom and nonaligned status, but the rulers in Moscow will continue to profess being champions of international peace and to commit aggression and tyranny in Afghanistan. We can only pray to the Almighty to endow the Afghan mujahidin with fortitude so that they can continue to inflict losses on the enemy!

Materials on Tankers Attacked in Persian Gulf

Foreign Ministry Warning

LD171131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1051 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Following recent developments in the Persian Gulf and the Kuwaiti Government's statement, and the stance adopted by official quarters in certain countries in this connection, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, which began on the basis of the aggressive policies of imperialism in the Persian Gulf and with the collaboration of certain reactionary regimes in the region, is slowly causing a total lack of security in the region and the destruction of the interests of the nations therein, thanks to the Iraqi regime's recent seditious policies and the U.S. extensive military pressence in the Persian Gulf.

The kindled fire, the prime cause of which is the Saddamist regime, not only has not been met with an appropriate and decisive response from the regional countries, but rather this fire has been further fanned thanks to the backing and support of certain countries. It has now reached such a stage that its flames are engulfing the very existence of other countries in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while considering such statements and official views as worthless, declares: The responsibility for thelack of security which has come about in the Persian Gulf lies with the Iraqi regime and its backers. Emphasizing its past policy of ensuring and safeguarding security in the Persian Gulf through the countries of the region without interference by the superpowers and declaring its readiness to confront any act of adventurism by the enemies of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby warns: Lack of security along Iran's oil routes shall be tantamount to insecurity for all the oil routes in the Persian Gulf.

Sabotage at Sea Considered

LD171141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1114 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following the interview given by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, which took place at the close of the Council's session, the commander of the headquarters of the Sar Allah Division [mainly concerned with security matters and disciplining women neglecting purdah] declared: The sabotage battalion of the Sar Allah Division, which by clearing enemy minefields throughout the imposed war has played a worthy role in destroying the fortifications and installations of the Zionist Ba'thist enemy, under the inspiration of martyrdom is now ready, in every part of the Islamic homeland where the arch-Satan and its agents might aim at hatching plots, to destroy the installations and fortifications of the arch-Satan whether at sea or on land, and thereby to repay its debt to Islam and the blood of the martyrs.

Imperialism Causes Price Rise

GF171006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The imperialist's plot to interfere in the security of the Persian Gulf is a reason for the concern in the international political circles and the cause for the rise in the price of oil in the world markets.

U.S. Supports Iraq's Attacks

GF170730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The joint plot of Iraq and the United States against the shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf and attacks on tankers which are said to have been carried out by French-made aircraft and with the cooperation of the U.S. intelligence service have evoked a widespread reaction in the world.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, although both Britain and the United States have expressed concern, military experts believe that Iraq could not have attacked the oil tankers without receiving intelligence from U.S. AWACS.

On the other hand, according to a report by the Central News Unit, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that the Iranian-Iraqi war might become the most dangerous threat to world peace. AP reported yesterday that the British Government in a statement expressed its concern about the threat to security in the Persian Gulf. The statement said it appeared that the losses and damage caused by these attacks have so far been on a limited scale but that these attacks appear to be a sign of the spread of the conflict.

On the other hand, Spanish radio in its morning news bulletin yesterday said that a tanker belonging to Saudi Arabia and loaded with 12,000 tons of oil that was journeying through the eastern waters of this country was hit by the missiles of an unidentified aircraft.

At the same time, Abu Dhabi press yesterday reported the rise in oil prices in the world oil markets. On the basis of these reports, oil prices in the world markets have risen in an unprecedented way. *AL-BAYAN* said the reason for this rise in prices is the attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

On the other hand, the Paris-based *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* newspaper, which supports French policies, in its article under the headline "The Iranian-Iraqi Front" wrote that in the Iranian-Iraqi war there has been a change and an increase in attacks which has a direct bearing on the export of oil, and this is at a time when Khark Island has thus far remained secure.

In continuation of this report, the correspondent of the Central News Unit adds that according to political observers the increase in the attacks on tankers and the threat to the security of the Persian Gulf is a sign of the depth and expansion of military, security, and intelligence cooperation between Iraq and the United States, because in view of Iraq's distance from the central

points of the Persian Gulf, it cannot carry out such dangerous moves without the help of the United States.

It should not go unnoticed that our Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently issued a statement saying that Iran will not tolerate any interference in the security of the Persian Gulf.

Iraq Admits Attacking Tankers

GF161515 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] KUNA has reported that an unidentified aircraft today attacked a Saudi oil tanker in the region of Ra's Tannurah, in eastern Saudi Arabia. KUNA quoted the chairman of the Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Company as saying that the Saudi tanker was set ablaze during the attack and that firemen were trying to extinguish the fires.

It is noteworthy that seven oil tankers have been subjected to the missile attacks in the waters of the Persian Gulf during the past week. The ruling regime in Iraq has so far admitted attacking four of them.

Commentary on Tanker Attacks

GF131030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 May 84

[Commentary by research group of Ahvaz Central News Unit: "The Imperialist-Zionist Plots To Destroy Security in the Persian Gulf"]

[Excerpts] The decadent Saddam regime, which has been for a long time now been living in terror of a possible attack by the soldiers of Islam, and in order to save itself, clutches at every straw, and now has started attacking oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. It is doing so in order to create insecurity in the Persian Gulf. By thus opening the way for the infiltration of foreign forces in this region and the resulting escalation of war, it may find a way out for itself, and so increase the life of its shameful rule for a few days more.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that the Saddam's forces during the past 2 weeks have hit with rockets two oil tankers that had loaded oil at the Khark Island terminal. The ships were hit at points more than 100 km from Iranian shores.

A glance at these actions, (?their results, and consequences) first of all should show that this action was not a decision that originated from the Saddam regime alone but was a calculated plot by the superpowers. It has been hatched by the socialist regime in France, and certain conservative Arab regimes are also involved. The aim of this plot is to prevent Iran from finally forcing the Iraqi regime to accept peace.

The first attack took place against a Saudi ship, *Safina al-'Arab*, on Thursday, 14 Ordibehesht [4 May; date as heard]. However Saddam's loudspeakers remained silent over the incident for a long time so that they could watch for the possible repercussions. But finally Saddam opened his mouth and on 11 Ordibehesht [1 May; date as heard] in an interview with Kuwaiti journalists admitted that this ship was attacked by Iraq.

The next day French dailies, quoting Saddam, reported that this attack was made with Super-Etendard aircraft made in France. Meanwhile, various foreign circles began to ask the question of why Saddam had chosen a ship with Saudi connections, because the Saudi regime provides a great deal of economic aid to Saddam. In the beginning the Saudi officials also remained silent, and Mr Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi petroleum minister, in reply to a newsman's question in Manama, capital of Bahrain, just smiled.

But the matter did not stop here. Soon afterwards, on 8 May, another ship connected with Saudi Arabia was attacked by the Saddam's forces near the very same spot. This time Mr Zaki Yamani announced that the attacks on Saudi ships were completely accidental, because the Iraqi pilots were not able to ascertain the nationalities of these ships.

But such talk by the Saudi petroleum minister was not confirmed by the international mass media, which said that these ships were clearly flying the Saudi flag. Some observers thought that Saudi Arabia would take exception to these aggressions. But Mr Yamani coldbloodedly told the newsmen in Bahrain that he has warned the owners of these ships that they must heed warnings by Saddam Husayn. When they hire out their ships, they should make sure that their ships do not call at Iranian ports so that they do not sustain financial losses.

Such talk by Mr Yamani shows that for him the political and trading interests of Saudi Arabia are of secondary importance. To him what is most important is the propaganda and support for any actions aimed at making insecure the shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf.

However, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, spoke in his Friday sermon about the attacks on shipping and about security fears in the Persian Gulf, and clearly said that if such actions continued in the Persian Gulf, Iran will certainly not remain inactive. Insecurity for one shipping lane in the Persian Gulf would mean insecurity for all the shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf, he said.

All these events show that the superpowers, after they have seen the heavy blows sustained by Saddam, have started a wider plot against the security of the Persian Gulf and the nations in the region. And whatever contribution Saddam and his cronies are making to that plot are part of a grand design. The other parts of the design will also soon become clear to the countries in this region. The fact which the nations of this region should note is that the Islamic Republic has always desired security in the Persian Gulf without interference from foreign powers.

Iran has so far preserved this security and will not allow any of the puppets of the superpowers to disturb this security in the Persian Gulf. The forces of the Islamic Republic are ready and capable of discharging this duty; and those who think they can, through machination and fanning the fires, strengthen the superpowers in this region are very wrong.

Rescued Tanker Captain Grateful

GF161444 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 May 84 p 4

[Text] According to a report by the public relations office of the Ministry of Petroleum, the Swedish ambassador in Tehran, along with the captain of the 250,000-ton tanker *Safina al-'Arab*, which was set ablaze in the Persian Gulf a few days ago, met the under secretary for international affairs of the Ministry of Petroleum at the Ministry yesterday morning.

The captain of the tanker, who is now in Tehran, expressed his gratitude and praised the hospitality of the Islamic Republic authorities, especially those at Khark Island. He said to the under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum: Do you recall what I told you about the incorrect reports reaching Sweden about the events which take place here? In your country I have been treated in a highly respectful way. Rest assured I will tell them about what actually goes on here.

He added: I am completely surprised and amazed over how this country has helped a number of foreigners. I could not even imagine such a thing. Rest assured I will return to this place. I will never turn my face away from Khark Island.

The captain of the *Safina al-'Arab*, who is a Swedish national, explained the incident as follows:

I was getting ready to take a rest when I heard a sudden explosion. I do not know how it happened, but my company heard the news at exactly the same time in Stockholm and sent a message advising me that I would get help from Khark Island. We were trying to keep our nerves under control and do nothing in haste. At the same time the first Iranian helicopter arrived to give us help and this was a very joyful event. Later a firefighting team arrived from Khark. It consisted of several firefighting vessels. They started to bring the fire under control. Later on, a ship came and we were transferred to it and then we slept soundly. The first helicopter took us to Bushehr and from there to Khark Island, and then we were transferred to Tehran.

At the conclusion of the meeting the ambassador of Sweden in Tehran said: I would very much like to thank all those concerned, especially the people at Khark Island. At the end of this meeting, the captain of the tanker said: I assure you that when mass media contacts me I will let them know about these efforts and the good treatment given to us.

Friday Imams Congress Blasts 'Zionist' Fes Conference

LD161823 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — The office of the 2nd global congress of Friday prayers leaders at Tehran in a statement issued today condemned the conference of the Zionist societies in Morocco and said the conference in Fes was aiming at "damaging the dignity of Islam."

In part the statement, referring to the efforts of the Islamic Revolution in countering the Camp David accord, said that the consequent fear of the global imperialism has prompted them to settle once and for all the Palestine issue by creating a new Camp David with King Hassan of Morocco as the key figure. Adding the statement also condemned the act of the Moroccan regime in inviting and accepting a Zionist delegation to the conference of Jewish councils in Fes.

The office of the congress in its statement reminded the world Muslims of their responsibilities with regard to their struggle against the world imperialism, warning them not to keep silent on these issues which would encourage [the] Zionist regime in its aggressive policies against Islamic lands.

Foreign Ministry Scores Morocco

LD161937 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] In connection with the visit made by a parliamentary delegation of the regime occupying Palestine to Morocco, a spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced:

Despite the open and secret contacts between the Moroccan regime and Israel and the active role of King Hassan in the signing of the Camp David accord, the recent measure by this regime in receiving a delegation from the regime usurping Palestine, the Moroccan interior minister's welcome to that delegation, and the invitation extended to the King of Morocco to visit the occupied Palestine are issues which cannot and must not be confronted by the Muslim nations and Islamic and Arab governments with indifference. The Kingdom of Morocco, which carries the title of chairman of the so-called committee for the liberation of noble Palestine, must not be allowed to play with the ideal of the Palestinian nation and to impose another Camp David on the Muslims and the Arabs with the help of other American aides and Arab reactionary governments.

The spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry added: As announced at the time of the convening of the Islamic countries' summit in Casablanca, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not consider the Hassan regime worthy of holding the post of head of the Islamic Conference Organization for many reasons, including its active role in Camp David and the crushing of the Muslim peoples of Morocco and Sahara. In accordance with its Islamic and historic responsibility vis-a-vis Palestine, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again warns all Muslim and Arab nations and governments against this measure taken by the king of Morocco, and asks them not to allow the interests of the Muslims and the holy ideal of Palestine to be played with by America's lackeys.

He added: We are sure that the Muslim people of Morocco will not accept such shame and will not accept the yoke of Muslims' captivity by Zionism.

Kuwait Continues 'Hostile' Deportation Procedures

LD161821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government, continuing its hostile measures, deported 10 Kuwaitis and 8 Iranians from Kuwait for the crime

of supporting the Islamic Republic and keeping pictures of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution. These people arrived in Ganaveh by motor launch via the Persian Gulf water borders and were settled in the Bushehr returnees camp.

Council of Guardians Thanks Khomeyni for Message

LD161641 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Following the Tuesday message of Imam Khomeyni reiterating his support for the decisions of the Guardian's Council, the secretary of the Council, Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi, in a cable to the imam today expressed his appreciation.

In part of the telegram it was said that the historic and valuable message of the leader of the revolution supporting the Islamic and legal stances of the Council once again made this institution the guardian of Islam and the constitutional law, immune of vulnerability.

The message further thanked God Almighty for making Imam Khomeyni so successful in protecting Islam and thwarting plots by powers of East and West.

Imam Khomeyni in his message stressed his support for the Council and warned those who have been spreading rumors about the Council because they found its views contrary to their own.

Meanwhile, various organisations and institutions in separate messages have pledged their support for imam's message.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,728

LD161812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 84

[Communique No 1,728 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The Joint Staff offers congratulations on the occasion of the auspicious birthday of his holiness the mahdi [12th imam of Shi'ite Islam] — may God Almighty hasten his noble advent.

Along the southern fronts of the country, the stalwart combatants of Islam yesterday returned fire coming from the Iraqi forces. By silencing their fire and repelling Iraqi aircraft, losses and casualties were inflicted on enemy forces, equipment, and installations. Exchanges of fire were most intense in the regions of Khorramshahr, Hoseyniyeh, and the Majnun Islands. Brave naval staff and valiant members of the Gendarmerie in the Arvand Rud region destroyed over 50 heavy and light arms emplacements of the Iraqi forces, killing and wounding at least 80 of the Saddam mercenaries and setting ablaze and destroying two motor vehicles, four heavy machine guns, two heavy mortars, four observation posts, and one ammunition dump. In addition, they stopped enemy engineering work and aerial attacks and gained control over their movements. On the border fronts of Elam, Bakhtaran, Marivan, Sardasht, and Piranshahr, sporadic exchanges between our forces and the enemy continued, being most intense in the region of Mehran and Sumar. On these fronts, the victorious forces of Islam reinforced and extended their defensive positions, and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddam mercenaries by shelling their positions and supply routes with heavy artillery and mortar attacks, while the dispatch of patrols and establishment of observation posts enabled them to gain control over and observe enemy movements, deployments and engineering activity.

With the destruction of several trenches and foxholes belonging to the Saddamist forces, one arms dump on one of the western fronts was destroyed, while in the Piranshahr region, one enemy command jeep and its four occupants were also destroyed. On the Marivan front, the enemy aggressor suffered losses and casualties.

The town of Abadan also came under long-range fire from the Ba'thist aggressors of Iraq, causing damage to people's houses and shops, and fires at several locations in the town.

Prime Minister Musavi Addresses Families of Martyrs

GF160755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] A group of martyrs' families from Shemiran's Sohanak area and Karaj's Verdavard District, together with the mobilization forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the same district, met Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi yesterday afternoon.

A gift was presented to the prime minister by a member of one of the martyrs' families for the government of the people as a form of aid.

Our country's prime minister in an extensive speech which followed referred to the families of martyrs as the true compatriots of the imam and the carriers of the message of martyrs, saying: The families of the martyrs are in fact the bearers of the flag of holy values in the society, which is the result of the blood of the martyrs.

The prime minister then noted the remarks the imam of the nation made to the Friday imams, saying: When the imam of the nation utters such revolutionary philosophical remarks to the Friday imams irrespective of the satanic power of the superpowers as: Talk to become powerful and don't wait for power before you speak, then this terrific roar which echoes among all the oppressed the Muslim of the world is the result and the tidings of the blood of the martyrs! What the imam of the nation and the Friday imams have recommended is a recommendation for our own nation also. The prime minister added: It is because of its unity with the people that the government feels powerful in the face of all large powers.

He added: It is as a result of this connection and the humbleness of the officials in the face of the great national spirit and the spirit of the leader that we have managed to extend the roots of the revolution across the world and form communications lines across the world which looked impossible in the past.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Bomb Arms Depot, Free Prisoners

LD121147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Detonating a time bomb close to the ammunition depot of the Sulayamaniyah barracks in Iraq, Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries destroyed a part of the barracks' ammunition and as a result a number of Saddamist servicemen were either killed or wounded. The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries also attacked a military vehicle of the Iraqi Zionist regime in Sulaymaniyah and killed or wounded all its occupants.

In another attack on the Ba'th Party Center in northern Iraq, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries succeeded in releasing 70 imprisoned Muslim revolutionaries. Carrying this report, the publication *RAH-E KARBALA* added: These people had been arrested during a raid on the homes of Muslims in northern Iraq by security forces of the Saddamist regime.

In the meantime, reports reaching us from Iraq indicate that the Muslim peoples of the cities of Arbil and Duhok, in support of the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries and as a mark of protest against the Saddam regime, have embarked on demonstrations.

140 Deported Iraqi Muslims Transferred to Khorramabad

LD160953 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 16 IRNA — Some 20 Iraqi Muslims [were] deported to Iran through mountainous and arduous western region of Salas Babakhani (Iran), Tuesday.

The number of deported Iraqis of the past 48 hours reached 140. They were transferred to Khorramabad and settled in camps.

Bushehr Revolution Guards Commander Said Killed

GF131709 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, the commander of the Revolution Guards Corps in Bushehr Province, Hamdollah Qamari, has been annihilated. The regime of Khomeyni has claimed that he was killed in the fronts. His body has been taken to Borazjan. This is the third guards commander killed during recent weeks. The regime of Khomeyni claims that they have been killed at fronts. The commander of the Revolution Guards Corps in Fars and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad Province and two commanders in the southern regime and Kermanshah were killed earlier. The regime of Khomeyni continues to withhold any information concerning the circumstances of the death of the Guards Corps commanders.

Second Phase of Majlis Elections Begins 17 May

LD161734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] From 0700 tomorrow, 17 May 1984, coinciding with the birth anniversary of the Holy al-Mahdi — may God Almighty hasten his honorable advent — the second phase of the elections to the second term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly will begin and continue thereafter for 10 hours in Tehran and another 92 electoral constituencies throughout the country. The elections of 12 electoral constituencies nullified by the Council of Guardians will be held during the mid-term elections following the setting up of the second term of the Majlis. The electoral constituencies whose elections have been nullified are as follows:

Shiraz, Amol, Behshahr, Khomeynishahr, Nur, Darab, Jiroft, Esfahan, Kuhdasht, Faridan, Shahryar and Qa'emshahr.

It is noteworthy that the representatives of the religious minorities were chosen in the first phase of the elections and that during the second phase our non-Muslim compatriots will not have any elections. In the meantime, every voter should participate only in the constituency in which he cast his vote in the first phase.

In connection with the elections to the Assembly of Experts, held simultaneously with the elections to the second Majlis in seven of the country's provinces, only the elections in eastern Azarbaijan have been postponed to the second phase, whereupon the people of that province, (?in addition) to the second phase of the elections to the Majlis, should elect six of the representatives of the Assembly of Experts.

Khomeyni, Majlis Speaker Vote

LD170701 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, at 08:15 a.m. today cast his vote for the second phase of Majlis elections at the Hoseyniyeh Jamaran, near his residence, north Tehran.

The imam was accompanied by his son Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and a group of members of his office.

At 08:45 this morning, Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani went to the same moving poll at Jamaran and cast his vote for the election of 17 deputies out of 32 candidates for the Majlis.

President Khamene'i Casts Vote

LD171055 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — President Ali Khamene'i this morning cast his vote for the second phase of the Majlis election at a balloting station on Amirriyeh Ave., central Tehran. Today's elections coincide the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Mahdi, the 12th imam of the household of the Prophet.

Nateq-Nuri Urges Observance of Election Regulations

LD161142 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — The interior minister, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, in a statement to the governors and executive councils of the second phase of the Majlis elections, called on them to take measures so that all election regulations would be observed.

The statement stressed that during the elections to be held Thursday, election campaign activities in the balloting polls should be prohibited. Furthermore, the officials in the polls should strictly refrain from filling in the ballots for the illiterate. Those illiterate should go to ballots with a reliable literate person.

The second phase of the elections for 94 constituencies where the candidates have failed to secure majority will be held Thursday. The primary stage of the elections for the 270-seat Majlis was held in April 15.

Amendment Implementation Rejected

GF170746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The election headquarters of the Ministry of Interior in its second communique has informed all governors, district governors, executive bodies, and voter registration branches that in compliance with the views expressed by the respected Council of Guardians, the single article amendment to the Majlis election law ratified on 1 May 1984 and the related rules and regulations thereunder for the second round of elections to the second term of the Islamic Majlis will not be implemented.

Guidance for Voting Stations

LD171036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0718 GMT 17 May 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have received a statement from the interior minister, which you will now hear:

For the purpose of proper implementation of the second stage of elections for the second term of the Majlis and to create the necessary facilities for the martyr-nurturing people and honorable voters' attendance at the ballot boxes, the following points are issued to all governorates and executive committees for implementation:

1. At voting stations, a special place should be set up with the necessary facilities, for the writing of votes and voting cards should not be done outside the stations.

2. The honorable voters should leave the voting stations after casting their votes; no unauthorized persons are permitted to be present at the stations without reason. Officials of the voting stations are dutybound to prevent unauthorized persons from being present.

3. Officials at the voting stations should, with the utmost alertness, prevent any propaganda activities near ballot boxes. They should destroy any publicity posters that voters may bring to the ballot boxes with them.

4. Officials at voting stations are under no circumstances permitted to write in votes on behalf of the illiterate. Those brothers and sisters who cannot read and write should try to go to the ballot boxes with people they trust, and should refrain from giving their votes to strangers.

6. [number as heard] Security forces in charge of protecting the ballot boxes are under no circumstances permitted to write in votes on behalf of the illiterate.

7. It is hoped that by following the law and observing total impartiality, we will achieve the satisfaction of God Almighty.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, minister of the interior

Judicial Official on Court Bias, Election Complaints

LD161327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] Mr Moqtada'i, member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, attended a press and radio and TV conference this morning. In reply to a question by a reporter regarding the following up of a case of violation by one of the courts in Behshahr, as announced by the Council of Guardians, Moqtada'i said: We had a meeting with the religious judge of the Behshahr No 2 Criminal Court. It turned out that some of the rulings by the alternate judge of that criminal court were biased. In addition, during the elections inspectors from the Judges' Disciplinary Court who were dispatched to the area received a total of 16 or 17 complaints. Those complaints are currently being investigated by the Judge's Disciplinary Court.

Finally, referring to extraordinary sessions of the Supreme Judicial Council this week to review the bill on Islamic punishment, he mentioned talks held in the internal judicial seminar [seminare dakheli-ye qaza'i] which is to be held in Tehran soon. He pointed out that the necessary instructions have been issued to the Council's deputy. [as heard]

Election Official Reveals Provincial 'Ballot-Rigging'

GF131711 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The official in charge of election headquarters of Khomeyni's regime, Emami-Kashani, today revealed some instances of cheating and ballot-rigging in provinces. Emami-Kashani said: A total of 12 cities have had their results cancelled so far and others may follow.

In one ballot center in Esfahan 13 boxes were moved around and one box contained around 400 votes written by one individual. He confessed that during the elections the Guards, mobilization, and reconstruction crusade personnel participated, and in some areas they threatened people, forcing them to vote. Emami-Kashani only revealed a portion of such interference. According to our correspondent, governors, district governors and committee guards openly interfered in the election process in the majority of the provinces in order to ensure the election of the government selected deputies. Hezbollahis, in order to show the popular support for the elections, tried to add to the votes in several areas.

Majlis Speaker Stresses Agricultural Priorities

LD141315 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the Islamic Republic would give priority to agriculture and all other fields of activities relevant to it, such as production of agricultural machinery.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani speaking in a meeting with Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Construction Jihad Minister Bijan Namadar-Zanganeh, and best farmers from throughout the country, noted that in order to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture, present bottlenecks should be removed.

As an example, the Majlis speaker referred to the issue of land and future security for the farmers, hoping that the second Majlis would be able, under Imam Khomeyni's guidelines, to solve the problem.

Emphasizing that some of the present problems could be solved, Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the Ministries of Agriculture and Construction Jihad to take necessary steps in this respect, such as improving the condition of granting loans to farmers.

He referred to the supply of water for improving agriculture and noted that several rivers which flow along Iran-Iraq borders and runs into Iraq could be used for this purpose, but requires a considerable amount of time and labour.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that in various border areas with the Soviet Union and many other places in the country there were waters not being used of which studies should be undertaken. He said that such a task should have been fulfilled during the 50 years of the former regime but had been ignored.

President Calls for Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

LD121844 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamane'i Saturday emphasised importance of agricultural activities to enable the country to reach self-sufficiency in this field.

The president stressed that wrong agricultural policies of the past should be corrected, noting that the Islamic Republic, by acquiring self-sufficiency in this respect, should set an example for the world.

President Khamene'i was speaking in a meeting with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Energy Minister Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, Construction Jihad Minister Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh, Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, State Minister and head of the Plan and Budget Organisation Mohammad Taqi Banki, State Minister in Charge of Executive Affairs Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Imam Khomeyni's representative to Dezful Ayatollah Qazi, a number of officials, and best farmers of the year.

President Khamane'i noted that the first measure in this respect should be generalisation of agriculture, stressing that the government had put emphasis on such a policy. Of course, he added, there were bottlenecks on the way, mainly caused by the hostility of the superpowers who had [word indistinct] the Iraqi war on Iran. But, he said, the Islamic Republic would struggle and employ all its efforts to gain such a self-sufficiency.

At the conclusion President Khamene'i presented letters of appreciation to the best farmers.

Khamene'i Speaks at Telecommunications Day Ceremony

LD161841 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — A ceremony marking the World Telecommunications Day, May 17, was held here today, following the message of President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The ceremony was attended by Iranian Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) Minister Morteza Nabavi and a group of country officials.

The president, in his message, said that the international communication link with the world, especially with Islamic and Third World countries, was of vital importance in conveying the message of the Islamic revolution to the masses and countering the superpowers' exclusive control of the system.

The message in part noted that after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the policy for the expansion of the communication system was reviewed and priority was given to the remote and deprived regions and cities of the country in order to accommodate wider strata of the society.

After the president's message, the PTT minister, commenting on the use of the system by the past regime, noted that the major part of the communication canals numbering 156 was devoted to the U.S., while only two or three canals were assigned to the Islamic nations like Turkey, India and Pakistan.

Morteza Nabavi in his speech further said that the Islamic Republic with a view to maintaining communication and expanding its relations with Islamic countries should attempt to enlarge her contacts with the masses interested in the Islamic revolution of Iran.

U.S., Soviet Human Rights Complaints Rebuffed

LD111427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 11 May 84

["Review of Foreign Radios" program]

[Excerpts] When members of the Tudeh Party are arrested, the Soviet Union complains that we have arrested a number of innocent people who were in agreement with the Islamic Republic and supported it and who, like others, assisted and continue to assist the Islamic Republic. On the other hand, Mr Reagan says that Baha'is are a quiet, harmless people engaged in their own form of worship, following their own religious injunctions, and that Iran has arrested them purely because their beliefs are different from Iranians' beliefs. Were they not spies you would

not have uttered a word. [quote from Khomeyni when members of Tudeh were first arrested]

During the past week, allegations of violation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran were again on top of the list of the reports broadcast by imperialist broadcasting organizations. The broadcasting of such rumors and the repetition and embellishment of such allegations has been one of the constant and unchangeable propaganda axes of world arrogance since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. At different times it has been raised to new and different forms. For instance, in the early days after the victory of the revolution, the execution of known criminals such as Hoveyda and Nasiri [former prime minister, former head of Savak] were declared to be examples of human rights violations. Later on, the arrest and detention of American spies in Tehran were regarded as clear examples of human rights violations committed by Iranian Muslim revolutionaries. At another time, the arrest and execution of some hypocritical terrorists who, by resorting to the most savage of crimes surpassed all international terrorists, were regarded as further evidence for their propaganda allegations. In the same way, in unison with the West, the communists, too, with their propaganda loudspeakers, accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of violating human rights after the arrest and exposure of the spies who had confessed to their spying activities.

During the past week, after the shattering and, at the same time, disgraceful confessions which revealed the true nature of deviated ideologies such as Marxism, the communist loudspeakers — without making the slightest reference to the confessions of Tabari, one of their most famous repentent ideologues — continued to praise the so-called past struggles of the defunct and spy-training Tudeh Party, and made Iran the target of their propaganda attacks for its broadcasting and revelation of these truths which are very painful to those who for many years have exploited and deceived deprived masses by resorting to those empty slogans. Contrary to previous occasions — when they claimed that the confessions of their former spies were fabricated — this time, knowing the futility of such nonsensical talk, they have chosen different methods to cover their disgrace.

Tabari and Kianuri, leaders of the spies, confessed to their spying and mercenary activities on behalf of the satanic eastern superpower. Western loudspeakers, which had broadcast numerous items alleging that the Islamic Republic of Iran was leaning toward the Eastern bloc, have now shamefacedly merely broadcast a brief report concerning their recent confessions.

Concerning this issue, namely the defense of human rights, as well as many other issues, the leaders of the satanic Western superpower are in full harmony with their Eastern comrades. According to existing evidence, not only have the two no contradictions in their attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its precious gains, but they confirm and complement one another. For instance, in the past few days, when the Russian propaganda attacks against the Islamic revolution reached a new height, the leaders of the White House also increased their propaganda attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The importance of this issue — namely, support for the spies of international Zionism in Iran who, during the satanical period, in the name of Baha'ism collaborated with the regime to plunder the resources of this nation, spread corruption and prostitution, and implement the imperialist culture in this country — is such that the issue is discussed in the American Government circles, Congress and Parliament [as heard] over and over again. The issue of the support for the human rights of those who are the objects of favor by the bosses of the White House and the Red house, who have no trace of humanity or good will, and whose very existence would not be possible except through aggression against the rights of deprived nations, warmongering, and crime in this or other parts of the world, like their support for so-called peace, security, freedom, and democracy, have so lost their credibility that the liberal-minded people of the world merely laugh at them. In any case, on the eve of the forthcoming presidential elections in America, which are in fact decided and controlled by trusts, cartels, and Zionists who have monopolized international mass media, the pretext of the defense of human rights is one of the issues in the list of the ploys used by the White House bosses.

Although in the last days of his political life, Carter also followed the path of support for human rights in order to succeed in the elections, he fell from power. Nevertheless, the present American President — who at one time played the role of clowns in American movies — after the failure of his military plans in Lebanon and other parts of the world, following in the footsteps of his predecessor, he is also clinging to the rotten device of so-called support by the American Government for human rights; yet, without a doubt, he too will have a fate no better than that of his predecessor.

Briefs

Singapore Ambassador Bids Farewell — Tehran May 15, IRNA — The ambassador of Singapore to Tehran, Haji Yaacob bin Mohamed, bid farewell to President 'Ali Khamene'i here today. The Singapore diplomat hoped that the mutual relations and trade ties would be expanded. The president, referring to the term of service of Haji Yaacob, said that it coincided with one of the most sensitive periods in the country and a period in which the Iranian people have been working hard for construction of their revolutionary society. The prsident also praised the friendly attitude of the Singapore people towards the Iranian people. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 15 May 84 LD]

Outgoing Pakistani Ambassador — Pakistan's ambassador to Iran, Abdul Malik Khattak, paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran. The Iranian foreign minister appreciated the envoy's efforts to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The Pakistani ambassador, referring to traditional bonds of religion, history, and culture between the two countries, expressed the hope that relations between them in various fields will further develop. The Pakistani ambassador also exchanged views with the director general of Iranian Central Bank on enhancing economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Iran. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 May 84 BK]